

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is the job of the FCC to ensure that corporations do not control and influence the information available during elections. By allowing Sinclair to unfairly distribute biased information, the FCC is agreeing that the politics of companies are more important than the American people which is a threat to democracy itself.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. We need diversity and access to truthful information to make fair judgments and successfully fulfill our obligations as voting American citizens.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.